

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB
BULLETIN

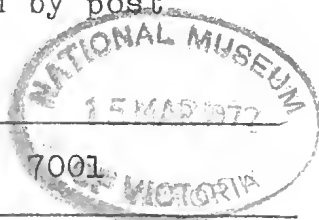
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No. 162

March 1972

Registered at G.P.O. Hobart for transmission by post
as a periodical - Category B.
Annual Charge - 50 cents.

Club's Address - G.P.O. Box 68A. Hobart. 7001.



NOTICE OF MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Royal Society's Room, Tasmanian Museum, on Thursday March 16th 1972, at 7.45.p.m.

Speaker for the evening will be the President, Mr. L. E. Wall.

NEXT OUTING

This is to be a MYSTERY OUTING.

Meet by the Prince Theatre... Time 9.30.a.m.

Date - Saturday, March 18th.

Private Transport.

Bring the usual picnic food and drink; binoculars, notebook and pencil, but NO swimsuit this time.

We expect to be home before tea.

MEMBERSHIP

The following are welcomed as members:-

Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd (West Coast)

Mrs. Grant (Summerleas Rd)

Miss Anne Smith (Lenah Valley)

Miss Pamela Riley (Battery Point)

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club BADGE

The supply is almost exhausted. Before ordering more it has been decided to hold a competition for a new design - incorporating a platypus. There will be a small prize for the person whose design is accepted. Send your entry to the Secretary.

CAR STICKERS

The object of putting one of these on your car is to provide an introduction between travellers interested in natural history. Cost 25 cents each.

They are available from the Treasurer.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Several members have still not paid their 1971 dues, and 1972 subs became due on January 1st.

Why not check with the Treasurer?????

EASTER CAMP

We now have 23 bunks available - all in 'Acacia', at Lake St. Clair.

The Easter timetable for the bus (Tasmanian Coach Lines) will not be available till a fortnight before Easter (about March 16th). Each potential bus traveller should check personally with Tasmanian Coach Lines.

LIBRARY BOOKS

Remember these are available for members. There are many interesting, informative books. Perhaps you could find here just the book you need to add to your knowledge of your chief interest or to start you on another fascinating line of natural history.

ANNUAL REPORT OF TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB. 1971

At the end of 1971 the membership totalled:-

7 Hon. Life Members, 58 Ordinary Members, 6 Junior Members and 12 Group Members (including family units). 16 new members were admitted during the year.

Meetings were held as usual each month from February to November inclusive, and we are indebted to the speakers (whether guests or our own members) who contributed substantially to the success of these meetings. At the same time there is cause for concern in the small percentage of our members who have been in attendance (about 30%).

Field Outings have been held regularly (during the week-end following each meeting) and, I believe, have been enjoyed by the participants, but in this activity also attendances have been generally disappointing - the average has been less than 20%. We must regret that our annual bus trip in November didn't reach its objective, but that wasn't the Club's fault and I must say 'Thank you' for all your forbearance on that occasion.

If the Club is providing what the members want we look forward to better attendances in 1972; if it is not, the Committee would welcome members' comments about what

they do want.

M.S.R. SHARLAND. I do not apologise for making special reference to the meeting in April when we celebrated with Michael Sharland his achievement of completing 50 years as a regular columnist in Natural History to the Tasmanian Illustrated Mail and The Mercury, a record which has received wide acclaim. He has filled with distinction almost every office in our Club and was honoured with Honorary Life Membership in 1952. A special presentation was made to him and he told us during the evening of many humorous incidents which have helped him enjoy the years.

Easter Camp. Our base on this occasion was Denne's Point North Bruny Island, but we ranged over most of the island and, in fact, spent little time in the immediate vicinity of our base. The camp was well attended and field work was encouraged by Alan Dartnall, Invertebrate Zoologist at the Tasmanian Museum. "The Tasmanian Naturalist" No. 26 (Aug. 1971) includes a report on observations.

"The Tasmanian Naturalist". We are indebted to David Thomas for his work as Editor. Because of additional material available we have been able to expand the size of the magazine and it is pleasing to see that subscribers from all parts of Australia are continuing to increase - a sure indication of its value.

Club Representatives on Conservation Bodies.

Representation on the South West Committee, the Tas. Fauna & Flora Conservation Committee and the Federation of F.N. Clubs of Tasmania has been maintained and thanks are due to our delegates for their work. Short verbal reports from them are received at each meeting and it is pleasing to see the very real interest which is shown by our members. It is impracticable to detail all their deliberations in this report but I would like to see reports published in the Tas. Naturalist so that those who aren't able to hear them at the meetings may know what is being done.

There is one recommendation which should be made well-known; it is that our delegate to the South West Committee is pressing very strongly for road access to Port Davey. Your Committee has felt very strongly that the South West National Park would be seriously handicapped without it.

Naturama. For the first time some of our members contributed slides to the show this year and the show included Hobart in its circuit. The Launceston F.N.Club is to be congratulated for its enterprise in regularly bringing the interests of naturalists before the public in this way. Our thanks, too, to our photographers and to those who helped in the presentation.

Pocket Book - Tasmanian Birds. Many months ago the Committee decided to investigate the possibility of producing a book illustrating Tasmanian Birds. Successful negotiations have taken place with Jacaranda Press which has paid us advance royalties to indicate its earnest desire to complete the project. We regret that there has been delay in preparing material and colour slides but everything is now in the publisher's hands and we are hopeful that publication will be achieved soon. Special thanks go to the photographers who have willingly made available their slides at no cost to the Club.

Club Rules. Members will be aware that these were revised during the year and we are pleased that the Committee's proposals were accepted. Changes were few, the main ones being simplification of the admission of new members and the inclusion of a couple of safeguards. Copies of the revised rules are available from the Hon. Secretary upon request.

Library. It is pleasing to see the library now readily available to members at our meetings. The additional facilities have not been used extensively so far but we hope members will use them more and more. Until a genuine demand is evident the Committee will not be justified in extending it.

Appreciation. My thanks are extended to all officers and Committee members for their help and co-operation during the year. The Hon. Secretary, Miss Westbrook, must receive a special mention as her contribution has been vital to the welfare of the Club.

I. E. Wall,
President.

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